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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /094 W
----------002355 231331Z /50
R 231117Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6168
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 7927

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINS, SY, UR
SUBJECT: SYRIAN VIEW OF SOVIETS

1. AT THE DECEMBER 18 ANTI-SADAT RALLY IN DAMASCUS PRIMIN KHULAYFAWI PREDICTABLY DECRIED SADAT'S INITIATIVES AND CONDEMNED THE "AMERICAN-ISRAELI PLOT." AT SEVERAL POINTS HE STRESSED SYRIAN TIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION SAYING: "OUR STRUGGLE AND STEADFASTNESS REQUIRE MORE EMPHASIS ON THE STRONG AND STRATEGIC FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN US AND THE
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SOCIALIST STATES, AT THE HEAD OF WHICH IS THE SOVIET UNION, THE FRIENDLY COUNTRY WITH CONSISTENT STANDS IN SUPPORT OF OUR CAUSE AND STRUGGLE, AND REQUIRE MORE SOLID TIES WITH THE STATES OF THE THIRD WORLD AND THE WORLD LIBERATION AND PROGRESS MOVEMENT. LET US CONSOLIDATE OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH THE MOVEMENT OF SOCIALISM AND LIBERATION IN THE WORLD, BECAUSE THIS IS THE RIGHT ROAD TO REACH OUR GOALS. WE SALUTE THE ARAB

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LIBERATION FORCES AND THE FORCES OF LIBERATION AND SOCIALISM
IN THE WORLD, WHICH UPHOLD OUR JUST CAUSE AND OUR LEGITIMATE
STANDS."

2. MINECON IMADI TOLD ME THAT KHULAYFAWI WAS SEVERELY CRITICIZED
BY THE PRESIDENT AND SURPRISINGLY BY FONMIN KHADDAM FOR
OVEREMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SYRIAN-SOVIET TIES. AT A
DEMONSTRATION IN ALEPPO DEC 21 FORMER PRIMIN AYYUBI DID
NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE. AYYUBI CONFINED HIMSELF TO TALKING
ABOUT SADAT, DID NOT EVEN MENTION THE SOVIET UNION, AND
COMPARED THE US-ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN "ALLIANCE" TO THE BAGHDAD PACT.
AYYUBI HAS BEEN CRITICIZED IN THE PAST BY COMMUNIST MEMBERS OF
THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL FOR THE ANTI-SOVIET BIAS HE DISPLAYED WHEN
HE WAS PRIME MINISTER.

3. COMMENT: FOREIGN POLICY REASONS WOULD SEEM TO ARGUE AGAINST
THE PRESIDENT AND KHADDAM BEING UPSET WITH KHULAYFAWI'S
CHARACTERIZATIONS OF SOVIET IMPORTANCE TO SYRIA. KHADDAM PARTI-
CULARLY HAS BEEN A CONTINUING ADVOCATE OF STRONG SYRO-SOVIET TIES.
WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT SINCE THE TWO RALLIES WERE DESIGNED FOR
INTERNAL EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES, ASSAD AND KHADDAM PROBABLY FELT THAT
PRAISE OF THE SOVIET UNION WAS THE WRONG LESSON FOR THE MASSES.
IN SPITE OF THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BAATH PARTY AND THE
COMMUNIST PARTY, AMONG OTHERS, IN SYRIA'S "PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL
FRONT" BAATHIS RETAIN CONSIDERABLE SUSPICION OF COMMUNIST INTENTIONS
AND ARE ADVERSE TO BUILDING UP THE COMMUNIST IMAGE IN EYE OF THE
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SYRIAN PUBLIC.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PINS, PGOV, SY, UR
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